

Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine

Author/Photographer Guidelines

Massachusetts Wildlife is published quarterly by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife with editorial offices at Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westboro, MA 01581. Telephone: (508) 792-7270, Fax: (508) 792-7275.

Ours is a 6 X 8 ³/₄ inch format with a four color signature. Issues currently run 40 pages. Subscriptions are \$6.00/year or \$10.00/two years. The publication first appeared as a magazine in 1956 and was offered free of charge, upon request, until it became a paid subscription publication in 1986. We currently have approximately 25,000 subscribers, and based on surveys, a readership of about 75,000. We do not print any advertising, although we do occasionally review/recommend books, wildlife art, other publications, videos and certain "public service" events or organizations of environmental focus. Subscription list rentals are available at our discretion.

Our format calls for balanced issues of original (we rarely print work which has already appeared elsewhere) articles for the sportsman, environmentalist, the general public and students of natural history. Articles should be interesting, informative, lively in style and entertaining to read. They must apply specifically to wildlife, fisheries or environmental concerns in Massachusetts, or be of interest to Massachusetts sportsmen and/or environmentalists (i.e. we will consider articles that are global in scope, including rain forest preservation, national wetlands protection efforts, etc.). Creative efforts (e.g. short stories, humor, etc.) which relate to our audience and carry a conservation message may also be acceptable. We do not print poetry. While some subjects may demand a certain amount of technical information, such information must be presented in terms understandable to the average reader. Though we require factual information and scientific integrity, we are not a technical journal. Our aim is to promote the dissemination of sound conservation principles and ethics, scientific thought and environmental information.

An ideal length for articles is about 1500-2500 words (roughly 6 - 12 double-spaced typed pages) unless more is requested by the editor. We accept material in hard copy format, on computer disc or via e-mail. We have several Mac and IBM word processing programs and can readily accommodate MSWord and WordPerfect PC formats. We prefer Macintosh WriteNow, PageMaker, MSWord, QuarkXPress or (in desperation) ASCII formats. Final layout for the magazine is currently done on the Mac in PageMaker 6.5.

We have an extensive in-house photo library and our staff photographer is available for assignment to accepted articles. We use occasional photos and illustrations from outside sources, however, and always encourage them with article submissions. Black and white photo submissions should be presented as prints; for color photos we prefer transparencies (slides), but we can use prints. We can also use digital photos at 350 dpi or better. Photographers who would like to see their work presented in the magazine are encouraged to send us general listings of their portfolios (e.g. northeastern songbirds, raptors, hunting dogs, bass fishing, habitat destruction, etc.). These are kept on file, and the photographer will be contacted as the need for his or her specialties arise.

All Material Is Solicited On A NO-PAY Basis

We are a non-profit magazine and are specifically forbidden to purchase articles, photos or artwork, although contributors whose work is printed in the magazine are acknowledged with credit/byline in the text, receive at least six complimentary copies of the issue in which their work appears, and also receive a two-year subscription to the address of their choice in lieu of payment. Material published in the magazine is typically not copyrighted, being in the public domain and presented for educational purposes. Unless otherwise informed, we assume that all or portions of some articles may be reproduced by the agency in any form for educational purposes (always with credit to the contributor). It is also understood, however, that contributors retain their rights to any material donated for publication, and may offer it for sale to other outlets.

Authors should always include a sentence or two about themselves at the end of any manuscript (the proverbial "author's blurb") and in some cases may take this opportunity to promote an organization they are affiliated with, provided such organization is related to the subject of the article and supports scientific resource management, public education and environmental responsibility. The blurb also offers an opportunity to plug other things (such as books) the author has written.

All unsolicited material should be submitted with a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. Manuscripts will be edited for brevity, clarity and "readability" at the discretion of the editor. Material should be in our editorial offices at least four months in advance of the issue in which it is to appear (the magazine generally is released on July 1, October 1, January 1 and April 1). More advance time may be necessary if our photographer is required for assignment.

We are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts.

Inquiries can be made by phone or in writing to:

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Our Magazine Goal

To provide sportsmen, environmentalists and the general public with factual, up-to-date information on the fisheries and wildlife resources of Massachusetts and how to enjoy them; to enhance the understanding and appreciation of those resources and instill a sense of responsibility for them;
to keep the public informed of our agency's work and recent developments and discoveries in the science of fisheries and wildlife management and research;
to promote the scientific management of fisheries and wildlife resources;
to provide an ongoing "catalogue" of reference articles for those seeking information on individual species and projects.